

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) Coaxial cannula that can be used in tissue, in which for removing tissue are a biopsy needle unit with specimen removal space and a longitudinally movable specimen separating device that coaxially encloses the biopsy needle on the exterior wall, and whereby the coaxial cannula has on its proximal end a sealing element that encloses the space between the interior wall of the coaxial cannula and the exterior wall of the specimen separating device, characterized in that the sealing element (3)-releases the air outlet when the needle unit is inserted and prevents air from entering after the needle unit has been positioned and a vacuum has been created in the biopsy needle interior space.

2. (Currently amended) Coaxial cannula in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that a hose-type sealing element (3)-is pushed over the proximal end of the coaxial cannula tube-(1), the interior diameter of which is dimensioned so that it leaves open a slight gap between the sealing element and the biopsy needle unit-(9), and in that the elasticity of the sealing element (3)-is such that, given slight underpressure in the gap between the exterior wall of the needle unit (9)-or the specimen separating device (21)-and the interior wall of the coaxial cannula, the proximal end of the sealing element comes to act as a seal against the needle unit or the specimen separating device.

3. (Currently amended) Coaxial cannula in accordance with claim 1 or 2, characterized in that when employing a biopsy device with a guide roller-(13), provided on the distal surface of the guide roller is a stopper (14)-with sealing elements-(16, 17), which ~~stopper~~ the stopper is inserted into a counterpiece (15)-on the proximal end of the cap of the coaxial cannula such that the opening is closed shortly prior to placing the distal surface of the guide roller on the proximal surface of the cap of the coaxial cannula.

4. (Currently amended) Coaxial cannula in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that, when using an intermediate piece (18)-between the distal end face of ~~the guide roller-a guide roller~~ the guide roller with stopper (14)-and the proximal end face of the cap with counterpart, the intermediate piece has on its proximal side a countercoupling part as a type of interior bore into which the stopper of the guide roller (13)-with sealing elements is inserted and in that on the distal side the intermediate piece (18)-has a stopper with sealing elements ~~sie~~ (19), which ~~stopper~~ the stopper is inserted into the proximal-side counterpiece of the cap of the coaxial cannula.

5. (New) A cannula, comprising:

an outer tube having proximal and distal ends and a lumen extending therethrough;

an inner tube disposed within the outer tube to define a space between an inner surface of the outer tube and an outer surface of the inner tube; and

a sealing element at the proximal end of the outer tube, the sealing element extending proximally from the proximal end of the outer tube to form a seal where an edge of the sealing element contacts the inner tube, the sealing element being flexible so as to open at least a portion of the seal to permit a proximally-directed flow of a fluid in the space.

6. (New) The cannula of claim 5, the sealing element disposed within a cap on the proximal end of the outer tube.

7. (New) The cannula of claim 6, a guide roller disposed within the cap on the proximal end of the outer tube.

8. (New) A method of venting a cannula, comprising:

forming a seal with a sealing element extending from a proximal end of an outer tube so that an edge of the sealing element is flexibly pressing against an outer surface of an inner tube slidably disposed within a lumen of the outer tube to form the seal, the seal resisting a distal movement of a fluid into a space defined by an inner surface of the outer tube and the outer surface of the inner tube; and

moving the edge at least in part away from the outer surface of the inner tube to break the seal and allow the passage of a proximally-moving fluid from the space.

9. (New) The method of claim 8, sliding the inner tube relative to the outer tube while moving the edge to break the seal.